

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 18, 2003. Claims 1-21 are pending in this case.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rakuljic et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,691,989). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration.

Claim 1 recites a laser system comprising *inter alia* a reference filter for determining an operating point cycle of a control filter. According to claim 1, the reference filter has a periodicity greater than that of the control filter. Rakuljic fails to disclose or suggest either of these limitations. Rakuljic teaches the use of two filters λ_+ and λ_- (FIG. 9a). The desired operating wavelength λ_0 is at the intersection of spectral response curves of the two filters λ_+ and λ_- . Rakuljic fails to teach or suggest a filter controlling another filter as recited in claim 1. In addition, the two filters of Rakuljic, as shown in FIG. 9a and FIG. 10, have the same periodicity in order to align the laser output to a given wavelength by using the intersection of the two filters. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claim 7, a wavelength division multiplexing communication system and claim 10, a laser system also recite the limitation of a reference filter for determining an operating point cycle of a control filter and a reference filter that has a periodicity greater than that of the control filter. Accordingly, claims 7 and 10 are allowable over Rakuljic at least for the reasons mentioned above regarding claim 1, and the rejection of claims 7 and 10 should be withdrawn.

Claim 19 recites a method of stabilizing the wavelength of a laser beam comprising *inter alia* transmitting light through a control filter and a reference filter, wherein said control filter has a first periodicity and said reference filter has a second periodicity greater than said first periodicity. As mentioned above with respect to claim 1,

Rakuljic fails to teach or suggest such limitations. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 19 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Rakuljic at least for the reasons mentioned above with respect to claim 1. Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7 and are allowable over Rakuljic at least for the reasons mentioned above with respect to claim 7. Claims 11-18 depend from claim 10 and are allowable over Rakuljic at least for the reasons mentioned above with respect to claim 10. Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19 and are allowable over Rakuljic at least for the reasons mentioned above with respect to claim 19. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11-18, 20 and 21 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: October 20, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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